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Acting Assistant Director for Operations

14 February 1949

Chief, FBIIB

Transmission and Dissemination of Soviet Regional Material

- REFS. : a. Minutes of Second Meeting of the FBIIB-BBC Monitoring Service Co-ordination Committee, 10 November 1948, Washington, D.C. (Paragraph 3)
- b. Memorandum to DCI from ADO, 5 November 1948, subject: Security in FBIIB Processing of Selected Soviet Radio Broadcasts
- c. Memorandum dated 9 November 1948 to Deputy Director from Acting Executive Director, subject: Security in FBIIB Processing of Selected Soviet Radio Broadcasts
- d. Memorandum dated 26 November 1948 to Deputy Director from Executive for Inspection and Security, subject: Security in FBIIB Processing of Selected Soviet Radio Broadcasts
- e. Memorandum dated 2 December 1948 to ADO from Executive Director, subject: Security in FBIIB Processing of Selected Soviet Radio Broadcasts

1. On 24 November 1948 Chief, FBIIB, received from Malcolm Frost, Head, BBC Monitoring Service, a cable advising that during his absence from London some conflict of opinion on this subject had arisen, that the solution had not been reached, and that he desired to warn the Chief, FBIIB, to avoid any expenditure of funds to implement our agreement.

2. At a later date Chief, FBIIB, received a letter dated 23 November 1948 from Mr. Frost, parts of which are quoted below:

"On my return I found that the whole question of the classification of monitored material, including Russian regional material, is now under further review at a high level. No final decision has yet been taken, but I think I should take this opportunity of warning you that it is at least possible we may withdraw our request to you on this matter. I am sending you a cable which will prevent your embarking on any expenditure over transmission until the matter has been clarified.

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"If, as result of our discussions in Washington the Agency irrespective of any request from us, wishes to place a classification on this material, I should be glad if you would let me know as soon as possible, since I feel that as the bulk of the material will come from you there would be an obligation on our part to respect your wishes in spite of any views which may exist here."

3. In reply to the above mentioned letter, the Chief, FBIB, advised Mr. Frost that it was his considered opinion that CIA would not insist upon this secure transmission unless BEC desired it, since the complications confronting FBIB in this respect with its several stations were considerably greater than those confronting BEC with a single station.

4. No further reaction from the BEC on this subject has been received.

5. In order to be able to implement this project without undue delay if the British do raise the question again, FBIB has explored to a limited extent the problems involved in providing a secure means of transmission from Cyprus. While the problem has not been pursued far enough to come to a definite conclusion, it is certain that the technical problems involved would not be simple and that the cost to CIA would be considerable. While FBIB will continue to explore this problem, it is believed advisable to continue the present method of transmitting this material unless this point is again raised by the BEC.

L. K. White

Distribution

Addressee - Orig and 1

1st Endorsement

LKW:hmq

TO: Chief, FBIB

16 February 1949

FROM: Acting Assistant Director for Operations

Continuance of present methods of transmission unless or until the point is again raised by the BEC) is approved.

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John M. Sterling
JOHN M. STERLING
Colonel, USAF